

From: pj ponder
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for allowing public comments on this important subject. I support stronger sanctions against Microsoft and I think the Settlement Agreement does not and will not do anything substantial to change the status quo.

Absent strong and effective measures, the monopoly that Microsoft enjoys and exploits now will only worsen, depriving us all of technological benefits we could gain from a more competitive industry.

I am particularly concerned that the process of settling this case is too heavily influenced by people who do not have a strong background in technology, and who perhaps have not spent much time thinking about the long range implications of letting the status quo go on. That sounds more negative than I had intended, my concern is that technological experts should play a significant and meaningful role in this case. It's not just legal issues that are being debated here, and I have been continually disappointed by how the states, the Justice Department, and the judges have failed to identify and analyze the technological issues at stake in this case.

The outcome of this case can have a tremendous impact on how people use technology and how data is managed for ourselves and the future. The monopoly business practices of Microsoft have already had a significant and detrimental impact on the free exchange of information, the development of free or affordable information systems, and have placed vital information resources at risk. The settlement agreement should do something to change the way things operate now - in a fundamental way.

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